

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to ensure the rights of parents are honored and protected in the Nation's public schools:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD the following letter from First Focus Campaign for Children in opposition to H.R. 5.

FIRST FOCUS,

Washington, DC, March 20, 2023.

Hon. JULIA LETLOW,
Member, House Education & Workforce Cmte,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,
Chair, House Education & Workforce Cmte,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. BOBBY SCOTT,
Ranking Member, House Ed & Workforce Cmte,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN LETLOW, SPEAKER MCCARTHY, LEADER JEFFRIES, CHAIRWOMAN FOXX, AND RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: I am writing on behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families a priority in federal budget and policy decisions, to express opposition to H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act. We do not believe this bill strikes the right balance between the duties of schools, the rights and responsibilities of parents, and the oft-ignored but important rights of children.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT IS CRITICAL

First, let's be clear: Parents are fundamental to the upbringing of children and absolutely should be engaged and involved in the education of their children. In fact, children have better outcomes when their parents are involved. As a parent of four children myself, I have engaged with my children's schools by voting in school board elections, attending all parent-teacher conferences, volunteering in my children's classrooms, scheduling time to meet with teachers and administrators when important issues arise, serving on the PTAs at my children's schools, serving on athletic booster clubs, and volunteering as an assistant boys and girls basketball coach for two county schools.

In addition to my personal experiences, I have learned a great deal over the years from both of my parents, my step-mother, step-brother, my uncle, and several cousins, who are all educators. Consequently, I have immense respect for the work, talent, dedication, and concern that the vast majority of teachers and educators bring to their profession on a daily basis—all with the goal of educating our nation's children to best achieve their hopes and dreams while also

trying to provide a place of safety and compassion for each and every one of their students.

Again, we strongly support parental engagement in education, but parents should not control all curriculum and educational decisions. Doing so is unworkable.

For example, imagine an elementary school of 500 students where 12 parents oppose the teaching of evolution, 8 parents believe the earth is flat, 21 are Holocaust deniers, 14 oppose learning about slavery, 7 believe in racial segregation, 17 believe in the concept of schools without walls, 27 believe in corporal punishment, 12 want Harry Potter books to be banned, 25 want books banned that mention the Trail of Tears, 31 believe parents should be allowed to overrule a physician's decision that a child with a concussion should refrain from participating in sports, 39 oppose keeping kids out of school when they have the flu, 4 believe that a child with cancer might be contagious, 34 believe students should be "tracked" in all subject areas, 12 believe students should not be taught how to spell the words "spinal tap", "quarantine", or "isolation" because they are too "scary of words," 41 don't like the bus routes, 45 want a vegan-only lunchroom, 4 demand same-sex classrooms, etc. Even though most parents oppose these demands by some parents and many of them are completely false, undermine the purpose of education, threaten the safety of children, or promote discrimination, H.R. 5 would seek to push their accommodation in some form.

THE REAL PARENTS AGENDA FOR CHILDREN

We must all do better by our kids.

By an overwhelming 77-11% margin, a May 2022 poll by Lake Research Partners found that parents believe "policy involving children should always be governed by a 'best interest of the child' standard." By a 60-19% margin, the American people believe we are spending too little as opposed to too much on public education. And when it comes in investing in children, 9-in-10 voters (90-7%) agreed with the statement that "investing in children helps improve their lives, development, and outcomes."

When it comes to children's policy overall, a nationwide survey by Global Strategy Group in February 2023 found that American voters have strong priorities in favor of "creating more effective childcare options for all families" (87-8 percent), expanding family and medical leave" (82-12 percent), bringing back the improved Child Tax Credit (76-13 percent), and "expanding universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds" (73-16 percent). The support for this agenda stands in sharp contrast to the opposition that American voters express to an agenda that would call for "passing legislation banning transgender-focused health care options for young Americans" (41-47 percent), "banning books that some parents find to have questionable content" (32-57 percent), and "banning high school classes like AP African-American history" (21-68 percent).

CHILDREN HAVE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TOO

Before diving into the details of H.R. 5, it is important to acknowledge that children need the support BY parents and government to be successful, and that they also sometimes need protection FROM parents and government.

The fact is that children have unique and fundamental human rights that should not

be ignored or dismissed. These include the right to an education, the right to health care, the right to be protected from abuse and violence at home and in schools, the right to be protected from gun violence and school shootings, the right to not be discriminated against because of their race, ethnicity, gender (including gender identity and sexual orientation), economic status, disability, religion, immigration status, or age.

As for parental rights and H.R. 5's attempts to modify the Protection of Pupil Rights Act (PPRA) and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), it is important to highlight that PPRA was originally enacted nearly 50 years ago (in 1974) and has been modified several times, including in 1978, 1994, and 2002, in order to broaden access and consent requirements.

H.R. 5 ADDS NEW BUREAUCRACY TO SCHOOLS AND DETRACTS FROM THE TIME, ATTENTION, AND FUNDING DEDICATED TO STUDENTS

While the impetus for aspects of H.R. 5 are well-intentioned, our first concern is that the language is duplicative of language already in federal law, policies in state law, and general practice by school districts all across this country in many respects but also potentially adds new bureaucracy and red tape to schools and school districts all across this for no apparent benefit.

Unfortunately, these proposed changes may potentially harm children. Any funding, time, and attention that is shifted away from students and their learning toward added bureaucracy and red tape can be detrimental to students. But H.R. 5 provides no funding to address the many newly imposed bureaucratic requirements upon schools.

For example, H.R. 5 proposes new reporting requirements for schools to include in their "local educational agency report card" a budget that is detailed "for each elementary school and secondary school served by the local educational agency." Requiring detailed accounting of costs, some of which are shared across school campuses (e.g., school nurses, bus drivers, etc.), for the more than 90,000 public schools across this country will likely greatly increase the employment of accountants. However, H.R. 5 does not provide funding to pay for such a mandate. Before proceeding, we should acknowledge that this newly-imposed mandate detracts from the funding, time, and attention school districts and educators have for improving the education and well-being of children.

First Focus Campaign for Children supports tracking funding that is allocated for children's programs as a share of government spending, and thus, annually produce a Children's Budget that analyzes the funding of more than 250 federal programs. We share this report with Congress to raise the awareness and transparency of funding for children. However, we would urge Congress to focus as many of those dollars as possible on the children themselves and not on excessive accounting and reporting measures that consume much of the attention and focus of H.R. 5.

H.R. 5 PROMOTES BOOK BANS RATHER THAN ACCESS TO BOOKS AND READING

Another important concern is language from Sec. 104 and Sec. 202 that would require schools to share with all parents of students at every school "a list of books and other

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

reading materials available to the students of such school in the school library.” Again, compiling, cataloging, and sharing such information to all parents would come at great time and expense that is not paid for by H.R. 5. That money and time would come at the expense of librarians and other educators focused on the education of children. Parents already have the right to visit their child’s school and its library, to request such information, and to ask their own children what they are learning and reading in school.

Rather than adding the burdens of more bureaucracy and red tape to schools and creating a chilling effect through increasing incidences of censorship and book bans, we should be working together to pass legislation to encourage students to read and learn through greater access to books, such as Reach Out and Read, First Book, Reading Is Fundamental, and other literacy programs. An individual parent should not solely be allowed to object to a book and cause its censorship for all of the children in a school or school district. This violates the parental rights of the vast majority of parents who do not support book bans or censorship.

Even more importantly, it violates the fundamental rights of children. As Justice Abe Fortas wrote in his majority opinion in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District* (1969):

Students in school as well as out of school are “persons” under our Constitution. They are possessed of fundamental rights which the State must respect, just as they themselves must respect their obligations to the State . . . In the absence of a specific showing of constitutionally valid reasons to regulate their speech, students are entitled to freedom of expression of their views.

Justice Fortas adds:

It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate.

In the Supreme Court case *Island Trees School District v. Pico* (1982), the Court ruled that children have a fundamental right to an education and access to learning that is not limited by the censorship of books based on “narrowly partisan or political” grounds. As Justice William Brennan writes:

Our Constitution does not permit the official suppression of ideas. Thus, whether petitioners’ removal of books from their school libraries denied respondents their First Amendment rights depends upon the motivation behind petitioners’ actions. If petitioners intended by their removal decision to deny respondents access to ideas with which petitioners disagreed, and if this intent was the decisive factor in petitioners’ decisions, then petitioners have exercised their discretion in violation of the Constitution.

H.R. 5 THREATENS ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, PRIVACY, AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENTS

Concern about access to health care for our children leads us to oppose the language in H.R. 5 with respect to school health. There were more than 4 million children in this country that were uninsured in 2020. In 2016, the Children’s Health Fund estimated that over 20 million children lacked “sufficient access to essential health care.”

Therefore, the role of school based health clinics, school nurses, school counselors, coaches, social workers, and physical trainers in schools is critically important to the health, education, and well-being of children. The language in H.R. 5 appears to dramatically expand the potential incidences in which all of these school personnel would have to seek out parental notification and consent prior to performing care, such as to check whether a student has a fever, has an ankle sprain, may have experienced a con-

cussion, or need to check for a possible broken bone. In many cases, these may not be considered emergencies, but in the meantime, children languish or must wait while school personnel spend large amounts of time trying to track down parents for consent.

In the report accompanying H.R. 5, the House Education and Workforce Committee majority write, “Americans should never be forced to relinquish these parental rights to government—whether that involves curriculum decisions or *personal medical choices*” (emphasis added).

We strongly disagree.

First, such a statement would threaten the health, safety, and lives of some children in our country. For example, based on that statement, does the Committee majority reject the ability of schools to set graduation requirements? Oppose the teaching of evolution? Allow parents to send children to school even if they are vomiting, have a fever, diarrhea, or have a communicable disease? Does the Committee majority now oppose school vaccine mandates? School concussion protocols?

Even more fundamentally, the sweeping statement in the Committee report would seemingly reject actions by government to protect the lives of children, such as that by a Hillsborough County judge in Florida who ruled in 2019 that a 3-year-old should continue chemotherapy treatment at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital at the advice and consent of doctors rather than the parents desire to stop cancer treatment and use “other methods such as an alkaline diet and cannabis.”

At its extreme, parental rights are granted in virtually all matters related to the health of their children in Idaho, including the use of faith healing rather than medical treatment. This has resulted in tragic health outcomes, including the death of children. The Washington Post reported in 2018 that, “Child advocates estimate that 183 Idaho children have died because of withheld medical treatment since states across the nation enacted faith-healing exemptions in the early 1970s.”

We urge the Committee majority to reconsider its language, as it raises grave concerns about the role some parents have played in decisions to impose female genital mutilation, conversion “therapy,” rebirthing “therapy,” certain types of involuntary institutionalization of children, seclusion and restraint, forced sterilization of children with disabilities, and other harmful or detrimental “personal medical choices.”

On this last point, there are also very troubling stories in which some parents bought into an array of false or dangerous treatment for autism that included “industrial bleach . . . turpentine or their children’s own urine as the secret miracle drug for reversing autism.” We would hope that everyone would agree that children should be protected—by government—from that.

We also support the affirmative right of children to seek out health care services in schools and, when requested, to have their privacy and confidentiality respected. And for decades, so has Congress. In fact, some of the language being amended by H.R. 5 comes from the Protection of Pupil Rights Act.

Therefore, for a student that seeks out a medical professional at school and desires privacy and confidentiality, we strongly urge that the request be respected. As Abigail English and Dr. Carol Ford explain in *The Journal of Pediatrics*, confidentiality and privacy is critically important to adolescents:

Decades of research findings have documented the ways in which privacy concerns influence adolescents’ willingness to seek

healthcare, where and when they seek care, and how candid they are with their healthcare providers. In the absence of confidentiality protections, some adolescents forego care entirely, some delay care or avoid visiting providers they perceive as not assuring confidentiality, and some limit the information they are willing to disclose.”

The authors highlight an important reality:

Not all adolescents have parents who are available, willing, and able to communicate with them about sensitive issues, and not all adolescents are willing to share information about all sensitive health issues with their parents. In this context, confidential consultation with a healthcare provider can play an essential role. Eliciting candid information about adolescent concerns, health behaviors, and symptoms clearly increases clinicians’ opportunities to address concerns, provide evidence-based prevention and risk-reduction counseling, and ensure timely diagnosis and treatment.

With potentially tragic consequences, H.R. 5 appears to undermine the affirmative rights of young people to seek out or health care providers for suicide prevention, mental health, substance abuse, asthma, infectious diseases, or other health care services without schools first obtaining written parental consent. Furthermore, H.R. 5 is silent on the matter of when parents may disagree over consent and the default should never be that kids are denied or left to languish with respect to access to essential services that are important to their health, well-being, and safety.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO THREATS, INTIMIDATION, OR VIOLENCE

Finally, although we often do not comment on language that expresses the Sense of Congress, language in Sec. 105 argues that “[e]ducators, policymakers, and other stakeholders should never seek to criminalize the lawfully expressed concerns of parents about their children’s education.” While we agree with that sentiment, it should also be said that parents should never bully, threaten, dox, or seek to intimidate educators, teachers, and even students themselves. The numerous stories of threats, violence, and efforts to intimidate school board members, administrators, teachers, and even students is disturbing and should never be considered acceptable.

In fact, many examples of threats, intimidation, and violent behavior cited in footnote 16 would never be tolerated if such behaviors were conducted by children. Kids would be punished and even arrested for far less. Furthermore, I would highlight that H.R. 5 would require such violent behavior “on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities” to be reported to parents (Sec. 104). Would that also include reporting violent acts of parents on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, such as those cited in footnote 16, to all other parents in the school district?

On this point, we should all be deeply concerned about what message adults engaging in such behaviors are sending to our children. Our children are watching and listening, and it is sad that so many adults are trying to make education all about themselves rather than keeping the focus on the education, needs, and well-being of children. H.R. 5 should not promote such behavior.

In the report accompanying H.R. 5, the Committee majority cite the “Nicole Solas story” as a “prime example of how school administrators can stonewall even the most basic attempts to uncover what children are being taught.” Left unsaid is that Solas and her husband filed over 300 Access to Public Records Act (APRA) requests with multiple

requests within each individual request that the school district estimated would take nearly 5,000 hours at enormous cost to the schools and to taxpayers (and again, time and money diverted away from serving children). These requests included demands for all emails, personnel records related to individual teachers, and records that contain personal information, including the home addresses and medical information of numerous teachers and educators in the school system.

Also left unsaid is that Rhode Island's APRA explicitly protects the disclosure of information about "individuals maintained in the files of public bodies when disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." This is an important fact that should not be ignored. One APRA request could have asked for the curriculum, as Solas claimed that she wanted, but that was accompanied with hundreds of other requests: many of which would invade of personal privacy of targeted teachers and other educators in schools. We would urge the Committee to not try to make Solas the "poster adult" for parental engagement. She is not.

Furthermore, Congress should be more discerning with respect to the types of behaviors that it finds acceptable. Supreme Court Justice Warren Berger explains, "Even the most heated political discourse in a democratic society requires consideration for the personal sensibilities of the other participants and audiences. In our Nation's legislative halls, where some of the most vigorous political debates in our society are carried on, there are rules prohibiting the use of expressions offensive to other participants in the debate."

For example, Congress would not allow the behaviors exhibited in footnote 16 to take place as it attempts to conduct its own congressional business. Thus, it is unreasonable to expect school boards and educators to subject themselves to extremely unproductive behavior as cited in footnote 16 when Congress would never tolerate the same. Threats of violence and intimidation are threats to democracy. Instead, Congress should promote discourse and civility.

Again, we strongly support the critical importance that parents have in the upbringing and education of their children. Unfortunately, we believe there is language in H.R. 5 that would prove to be unnecessarily detrimental to the education, health, privacy, and well-being of children. We urge you to go back to the drawing board and work with educational and child and family organizations to improve and rebalance the focus of this legislation, and to remember that children have fundamental rights too.

Rather than a self-centered agenda focused upon parents, the vast majority of parents really want what is best for their children. They do not accept that, as a nation, the U.S. ranks 36th out of 38 wealthy nations on measures of child well-being. They demand that we do better by children. That should be all of our focus.

As such, parents are far more interested and focused on improving education, child health, and reducing child poverty, hunger, and homelessness than book bans, censorship, the whitewashing of history and science, and the excessive filing of numerous records requests for personal and confidential information about school teachers.

Let's work together toward those goals.

Sincerely,

BRUCE LESLEY,
President.

PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights. Our students are the future. They need support, particularly parental support. However, school administrators have decided to undermine this support by keeping parents from getting involved in their own children's education, teaching divisive curriculum, and protecting themselves from accountability.

It is abundantly clear that parents want to be involved. In fact, just the other day in Wisconsin, the School District of Waukesha approved a resolution that established parents' rights and transparency. In this resolution, the school board affirms their commitment to parents, protection for students' religious and moral beliefs from discrimination, and keeping controversial issues out of the classroom.

There is an innate need for parental involvement in education, which is why I strongly support H.R. 5. In fact, my own bill, the CRT Transparency Act, is included in this legislation. This important bill requires schools to post their curriculums online so that parents can see what their students are being taught. Parents across the nation are seeing violations of their rights and their important role replaced. We must pass H.R. 5 to protect parents' right to be heard and put our children first.

COMMENDING HAKELA HAPNER ON HER WORK FOR ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hakela Hapner for her service to Alabama's First Congressional District.

Hakela received her Bachelor's degree in History and Business Law from the University of Southern California. After graduating, she was hired by the Institute for Justice as a Mafucci Fellow and then as an Activism Assistant. I then hired her in September of 2021 as a Legislative Correspondent, where she managed the mail program and was soon promoted to Military Legislative Assistant.

Hakela handled the National Defense Authorization Act, Veterans Affairs, Science and Space, Homeland Security, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Water Development, Food and Drug Administration, Rural Development, Agriculture Appropriations, and State and Foreign Operations Appropriations. Hakela stepped up and took the lead on my community funding requests and general appropriation requests. She has been a force for Alabama's First District during her time holding these positions.

We are so proud of all the accomplishments she has made, and I cannot wait to see where the next adventure takes her.

RECOGNIZING TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, triple negative breast cancer is an aggressive breast cancer and patients with undiagnosed metastatic TNBC have a less than 30 percent chance of surviving past five years. Unlike other breast cancers, TNBC is more difficult to treat. There are limited therapies available specifically addressing the management of TNBC, which has made treating this disease a challenge for clinicians. In my home state of West Virginia, the breast cancer mortality rate among women is the 8th highest in the U.S. The prevalence of TNBC in West Virginia is 13 percent, and studies have found links between obesity and TNBC patients in the state. It is imperative to increase the overall wellness of our population, especially for women suffering from a disease as invasive as TNBC. That's why we need more research and access to care in West Virginia to catch this disease early. We need to work together not just this month, but every month, to maintain momentum to improve early diagnosis, treatment planning, cancer typing, and research to help all those affected by TNBC.

HONORING THE SPIRITED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF DEBBIE KIEVITS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Connecticut hero, Ms. Debbie Kievits of Norwich. As the founder of Norwich Bully Busters, Debbie has been relentless in her leadership behind a local anti-bullying campaign for more than two decades. Debbie will be honored this weekend in Norwich following her recognition in USA Today as Connecticut's 2023 Woman of the Year.

Debbie Kievits has long stood firm in her faith of youth empowerment. In 2000, following a string of unfortunate bullying incidents that also impacted her own family, Debbie envisioned an opportunity to improve her community. She took charge and began to engage with fellow parents. In doing so, Debbie came to understand that reducing bullying amongst youth is a constant battle that requires town-wide buy-in. She obviously continues to courageously pursue this fight today.

Following the incidents in 2000, Debbie felt inspired to implement her own vision after engaging with parents and groups like Youth Against Bullying. She created Norwich Bully Busters, a volunteer-based organization missioned toward sharing a simple message: "Kindness is magical."

At the time this group might have been viewed as benign but peripheral to school development. In 2023, we now understand how the problems Debbie identified are the central challenge to public education today, mainly fostering safe and healthy learning environments. The push to strengthen the behavioral

health services in 2023 is honestly a follow-on to Debbie's visionary leadership.

Over the years, Norwich Bully Busters has perfected utilizing cost-effective strategies to engineer the spread of positivity within a community. When she became inspired with the idea of "Buddy Benches," as a platform for students to meet new friends on the playground, Debbie activated her network of volunteers to help construct and then paint welcoming backdrops on benches. By way of her positive, purposeful engagement, there are now more than 80 Buddy Benches placed throughout Norwich schools. By way of another example, Debbie has remained a constant presence in the Norwich school system, hosting conversations with students and teachers in the classroom.

There are countless more cases of Debbie acting as a source of light for Norwich youth. Norwich Bully Busters eventually evolved to establish summer programming, led by Debbie, which combines community service, activities, and ideas for future careers. As a matter of fact, Norwich's newly elected State Representative Derell Wilson grew up participating in this summer program. When another student felt their passion to pursue arts over summer vacation was turned down, Debbie's response was, "What do you need?" And so, she provided that student with a space to develop and ultimately lead an arts program amongst other peers. Their production was performed at Norwich's local theatre, and that student now has a history of working on Broadway. Clearly, Debbie and her organization have had a lasting impact upon those who have grown up in Norwich.

Debbie has also used her position through Norwich Bully Busters to stir anti-bullying conversations well outside Norwich. She again activated her network to push the envelope at the Connecticut legislature, which has since enacted laws including An Act Concerning School Learning Environments and An Act Concerning Behavior in Schools. The latter of those two laws specifically requires boards of education to develop policies on bullying, and I can assure you Debbie played a part in the establishment of Norwich public schools' policy for bullying behavior.

Mr. Speaker, Debbie continues to build upon the altruistic energy that stands behind Norwich Bully Busters. She has created a self-nurturing support system, comprised of individuals who have been socialized to understand that actions matter, the infectious power that exists through positive engagement, and are now pursuing their own visions of community development. Debbie is the definition of what it means to be a first generation American. We are forever indebted to her service. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Debbie's legacy of leadership.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GAIL MOORE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a very respected member of our beloved Bucks County, Gail Moore.

Born in 1946, Gail grew up in Levittown, Pennsylvania and enjoyed a successful career as a Registered Nurse at Lower Bucks Hospital as part of the surgical, IV, and home health care teams. She went on to serve as the Director of Claims at United Healthcare. After her nursing career, Gail continued to be a beacon of light in the healthcare industry, opening her own business providing care for women suffering from cancer.

Gail married her high school sweetheart, Zane Edward Moore, while he was serving in the U.S. Army, and they have two sons, Zane Edward Moore, Jr. and Christopher Stephen Moore. She is also survived by her five loving grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my family, and our entire staff, we send our deepest condolences to Gail's family and all who knew and loved her. Gail will be deeply missed and remembered for her love and devotion to her family, friends, and her community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SENATOR JIM BROYHILL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Senator Jim Broyhill. Sadly, Senator Broyhill recently passed away on February 18, 2023.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1950, Senator Broyhill began his career working for his family's furniture company, Broyhill Furniture Industries. He was first elected to Congress in 1962 as the representative for North Carolina's ninth congressional district, the district I am honored to represent today. He served the ninth district from 1963 to 1969. He also represented North Carolina's tenth district from 1969 to 1986 before he was appointed to represent North Carolina in the U.S. Senate in 1986. Over the course of his more than 23 years in Congress, Senator Broyhill was known for his dedicated constituent service and efforts to work across the aisle to achieve results for North Carolina and our nation. He served on the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, and the Small Business Committee in the House of Representatives and the Armed Services Committee and the Judiciary Committee in the Senate. He rose to become the ranking Republican member on the House Interstate and Foreign Service Committee and was awarded "Watchdog of the Treasury" by the National Association for Small Business each year that he was in Congress. After his time as a federal legislator, Senator Broyhill remained dedicated to serving the people of North Carolina. Among his many impressive achievements, he served as the Chairman of the North Carolina Board of Economic Development and the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation in recognition of Senator Broyhill as we honor his extraordinary life. Through his exceptional leadership and dedicated service to North Carolina and our nation, he set an excellent example for all in public service to emulate. Senator Broyhill was an important

mentor and friend to many elected leaders in North Carolina, including myself. I am greatly appreciative of the wisdom and guidance he provided me over the years. I know I speak for our entire community in extending my condolences to Senator Broyhill's family and many friends. His legacy of service will live on forever.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Senator Jim Broyhill for his exemplary service and exceptional commitment to North Carolina and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote today for the Green Amendment No. 10, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for the Jacobs Amendment No. 13, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for the Massie Amendment No. 15, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for the McCormick Amendment No. 17, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for the Roy Amendment No. 19, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for the Roy Amendment No. 20, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for the Democratic Motion to Recommit on H.R. 5, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for the vote on H.R. 5, I would have voted "no." This legislation is misleadingly titled as "Parents Bill of Rights" while ignoring the partnerships that already exist between parents and educators. Further, it dismisses educators' experience and dedication to their students at a time where our country is facing shortages. It will exacerbate censorship at a time when the American Library Association already reported a 38 percent increase in book banning. Lastly, but most importantly, this legislation creates a more harmful environment for students. Every student in every community deserves access to high-quality public education and to feel safe at school regardless of race, gender identity, religion, or sexuality.

Additionally, had I been present for the vote on H. Con. Res. 25, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER MONTH

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, as a congresswoman, and a champion of health care initiatives, and as a voice for breast cancer survivors, a disease that affects minority women and all women, I am here today to talk about the pressing need for increased funding for triple-negative breast cancer. Breast cancer is a devastating disease that affects far too many of us. But triple-negative breast cancer, in particular, is one of the most aggressive and deadly forms of breast cancer.

Women with triple-negative breast cancer often face a worse prognosis and limited treatment options. This is why we need to increase

funding for research into this disease. We need to find better ways to detect it early and to develop new treatments that will give women with triple-negative breast cancer a fighting chance.

But funding for research is not enough. We also need to ensure equity and access to treatment for all women with breast cancer, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. Women from marginalized communities often face barriers to accessing care, and we must work to break down those barriers.

No woman should have to fight breast cancer alone, and no woman should be denied the care she needs because of where she comes from or how much money she makes. We must come together as a community, regardless of political party, to ensure that all women have access to the care and treatment they need.

I urge my fellow lawmakers to join me in supporting increased funding for triple-negative breast cancer research and ensuring equity and access to care for all women with breast cancer. Together, we can make a difference and save lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on March 22, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 144 and YEA on Roll Call No. 145.

HONORING CHIEF SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR (SEAL) MICHAEL ERNST

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Navy Chief Special Warfare Operator Michael T. Ernst, a highly decorated Navy SEAL who tragically died on February 19, 2023, while conducting military freefall training in Arizona. He was an American hero who dedicated his life in service of our country.

Michael grew up in Cohasset, Massachusetts playing hockey, lacrosse, and the drums, and was never far from his five siblings and loving parents. Following high school, Michael attended Denison University where he would meet his future bride, Megan, and earn a Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 2008.

Michael's spirit of adventure and commitment to service drove him to enlist in the U.S. Navy in 2010, and shortly thereafter he realized his dream of becoming a Navy SEAL. During his 13 years of naval service, he became a highly decorated combat veteran with a multitude of deployments around the world, and host of awards for valor including the Silver Star Medal awarded for his heroic actions on a daring rescue operation.

Michael was relentlessly committed to self-improvement and would also go on to cap his Navy career by earning a Master's of Business Administration, as a Sloan Fellow, from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2022.

Michael truly excelled as a husband, father, son, brother, friend, and teammate. He was a larger-than-life man and a warrior who served both our Nation and his family honorably. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join Michael's wife Megan, his children Reilly and Judah, and his parents, siblings, friends, and teammates in celebrating his life, recognizing the sacrifices he made for us, and extending our deepest gratitude for his noble service to our great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, on March 22, 2023, I missed votes on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 144. To direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on implementation of the advanced capabilities pillar of the trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, H.R. 1093, and YEA on Roll Call No. 145, to Amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines, H.R. 1159.

IN MEMORY OF ALEX FRANKLIN PERRYMAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Alex Franklin Perryman, Sr., a long-time resident, labor and community leader in Detroit, Michigan as we mourn his recent passing.

Mr. Perryman was born on January 4, 1924, in Whitehall, Alabama to the late Jonas Perryman and Melissa Thomas Perryman. He was the youngest of 10 children. Mr. Perryman attended school in Tyler, Alabama and later Carver High School in Gadsden, Alabama.

At the age of 18, Mr. Perryman moved to Detroit, Michigan to work for the Chrysler Corporation and fell in love with the city he called his home until his passing.

Mr. Perryman met the love of his life, Geneva Wilson in 1944 and they married in 1945. They had been married for a remarkable 77 years when she preceded him in death. Mr. and Mrs. Perryman raised five children on Burlingame Street in Detroit—Lavonia, Linda, Alex, Jr., Ronald, along with Nehemiah and Linda—both who preceded him in death.

A trailblazer, devoted community member and labor union leader, Mr. Perryman was a

skilled laborer and United Auto Workers (UAW) activist at Chrysler Corporation for over 50 years. He was the first African-American Vice President of UAW Local 140. As a union leader, Mr. Perryman was steadfast in operating in the intersection of civil rights and workers' rights. He coordinated several local and national outreach and civil rights activities on behalf of the UAW.

In the community, Mr. Perryman was an active member of the NAACP and believed deeply in the civic participation and voting. He served as a poll worker for 15 years, ensuring that his neighbors had access to the ballot box.

Mr. Perryman loved baseball and his life of service extended into this adoration for sports. He spent many years working with the Westside Cubs and St. Cecilia sports teams. He also worked several years at Comerica Park where the Detroit Tigers play.

Mr. Perryman leaves behind a beautiful family to mourn his life. His daughters, Lavonia and Patricia; son, Alex Franklin, Jr., and sister-in-law, Mamie Louise Wilson. He also leaves 11 precious grandchildren. Please join me in recognizing Alex Franklin Perryman, Sr.'s numerous contributions to our community as we honor his memory.

HONORING KEATH MORGAN

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of a devoted patriot and civil servant in Houston County Georgia, Mr. Keath Morgan.

On February 17, 1943, Mr. Morgan joined the United States Army in Salt Lake City, Utah. After basic training, he was sent to Fort Benning to attend Airborne School with the intent of becoming a paratrooper. Upon his completion of the program, Mr. Morgan was transferred to Europe and assigned to the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, known as the "Screaming Eagles."

Mr. Morgan accompanied the 101st Airborne Division to Bastogne, the Battle of the Bulge, the Ruhr Campaign, and finally to the "Eagles Nest," the site of Hitler's residence in the Alps, in Berchtesgaden.

After his service in the 101st Airborne Division, Mr. Morgan transferred to the 82nd Airborne Division, serving an occupation duty in Austria until coming home on the Queen Mary and marching in the Victory Parade in New York City on January 12, 1946.

Throughout his endeavors, Mr. Morgan served as a light machine gunner. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

I would like to thank Mr. Morgan for his years of service to our community and our country. It is an honor to represent such upstanding constituents like him in the Eighth Congressional District of Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF BROOKSVILLE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Brooksville as it celebrates its 100th anniversary this weekend. Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis club, with Kiwanis members participating in over 150,000 service projects, devoting more than six million hours of service and raising nearly \$100 million every year in communities around the globe.

The Kiwanis Club of Brooksville is especially impactful. Under the skillful leadership of President Frank Cassara, the Kiwanis Club of Brooksville has made immeasurable contributions to the community. In addition to raising funds to support countless local charities and organizations, the Club sponsors an annual Easter egg hunt and helps facilitate the Christmas parade each year. Most recently, the Club has been collaborating with the City of Brooksville to build a splash pad for Tom Varn Park. The lives of residents throughout Hernando County have been improved because of this group's philanthropic approach to making a difference of the lives of others.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF CUERO, TX

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate the 150th birthday of the city of Cuero, TX.

The city of Cuero's history began in the late 1800s as a stopping point along the Chisholm Trail cattle route to Kansas. Cuero was officially recognized as a city in March 1873 and a couple years after, the city was soon incorporated as the permanent county seat for Dewitt County.

Over the course of its 150 years, Cuero has built a rich history and robust agricultural industry. Perhaps nowhere is this history more reflected than in Cuero's famous turkey dressing tradition, which began in 1908 as Cuero began farming the product that made them famous. Eventually, the city's historical bond with the turkey grew into an annual turkey dressing tradition called "The Turkey Trot"—a celebration which still exists today and celebrates Cuero's moniker, "Turkey Capital of the World."

But beyond the history, the agriculture, and even the turkey, most notable about the city of Cuero are its people—known for faith, hard work, and dedication to their community. As someone blessed to represent this area of Texas, I can attest firsthand how communities like this one represent the best of what America has to offer.

On March 25, the city of Cuero and its residents will observe the town's 150th birthday with a celebration on Main Street. I would like

to recognize and send well wishes to everyone living in Cuero as well as thank those who helped organized the day.

I now ask my colleagues to join the city of Cuero in celebrating 150 years of progress and prosperity and recognize the residents of Cuero for all their contributions to the city's 150 years of history. It's an honor to represent them in Congress.

HONORING MIKAELA SHIFFRIN

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible accomplishments of New Hampshire's own Mikaela Shiffrin, the most decorated skier of all time.

On March 11, 2023, during Women's History Month, Mikaela broke the record for the most alpine World Cup wins by any skier, male or female, earning 87 championship wins and securing her place in history.

Shortly after, she won another title, breaking her own record and making history, again.

I love having a woman be the most decorated skier in the world.

From her earliest days, when I met her at the Dartmouth Ski Way and first watched her race with her late father, Jeff, Mikaela has taken the world by storm.

Her record-breaking win and dedication to the sport will inspire women and girls across the country.

I thank Mikaela for inspiring us to be nice, think first, and have fun.